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MISHICOT

Regional Edition · Tuesday · August 4, 1998 · Save $3 each month with home delivery

Mishicot spreads ethnic roots

German, Czech village grows with the times

By KURT RENTMEESTER
Staff Writer

MISHICOT – Residents of German and Czech roots have rediscovered their own heritage by attracting visitors to Mishicot.

Throughout this village of 1,400 in northeastern Manitowoc County, the influence of Fox Hills Resort and Country Club can be felt each day, according to Jim Bydalek, clerk-treasurer of Mishicot. The resort's timeshare condominiums and series of golf courses bring in a fresh clientele of people as well as a cross-county collection of visitors.

Founded 150 years ago by immigrants from Czechoslovakia and Saxonburg, Germany, this small community continues to grow.

Some residents capitalizing on that heritage, have turned many one-time businesses into a series of shops.

New shop operators are moving in.

Ann Wilsman, owner and operator of Gifts from the Heart, a gift shop across from Fox Hills, said she and her husband liked the small-town feel of this village when they moved here 25 years ago.

"It's a warm friendly area. You hear that often from a lot of tourists who go shopping," Wilsman said.

Jon Huntington of Manitowoc operates the one-time opera house. For many years the building was a supper club. Huntingon now sells antique furniture there.

The former public school, was turned into the Old School Shops. Another building, the "general store" will soon re-open with a new name and theme.

Tami Thompson, who owns a hobby farm in the town of Gibson

HTR photo by Ron Hoerth

Sixty-four children get in line to be taken to swimming lessons Monday through Thursday. The lessons are offered through the village of Mishicot. The driver, Mary Jo Vertz of Two Rivers, is at the door of the bus.

> "It's a warm friendly area. You hear that often from a lot of tourists who go

dents replaced that event with other activities.

Last year, a sesquicentennial celebration of the community was held. This year, a new event, River Fest, involves many local groups, including the fire department, ambulance service and 4-H Camp TaPaWingo.

into a gift shop.

As a local real estate agen
said she's seen more change
since returning from college and sev-
eral years of living away than in the
entire time she grew up here.

"We get people from Milwaukee (wanting to move here)," said Thompson, who calls the real estate market "dynamic."

A symbol of that growth can be seen in the community celebrations that residents are retaining.

Following the elimination of the Mishicot Junior Fair in 1996, resi-

"We are starting to see some good movement (here)," Thompson said. "When you see that kind of growth, you know Mishicot is being more than a pass-through community."

HTR photo by Tim Swoboda

Judy Ferry, owner of Dial - A - Style at 522 E. Main St. Mishicot, styles Eva Hoffman's hair. The village of Mishicot is home to a wide array of service-oriented businesses.

HTR photo by Ron Hoerth

Eleven-year-old B. Jay Blattler gets his helmet adjusted by his dad, Bud Blattler on their new motorcycle. They said they have a lot of fun touring Mishicot and the surrounding area.

HTR photo by Tim Swoboda

Andy Larson, right, owner of Larsioni's Pizzeria at 312 Rockway St. Mishicot, overseas pizzas being prepared by Jenny Lambrecht and Jason Rocklewitz.